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REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the indication that claims 7 and 21 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claims 1-30 remain pending in the instant application. Claims 1-6, 8-20 and 22-30 presently stand rejected. Claims 1, 5, 7, 14, 19, 21, and 25 are amended herein. Entry of this amendment and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 11-20, and 22-30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozugur et al. (US 2003/0189933 A1). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozugur in view of Comellas et al. (Integrated IP/WDM Routing in GMPLS-Based Optical Networks, IEEE Network March/April 2003, pg. 22-27).

"To establish prima facie obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." M.P.E.P. § 2143.03.

Amended independent claim 1 now recites, in pertinent part,

reserving each of the of lightpath segments along the lightpath for a scheduled timeframe by updating a reservation table maintained in each of the nodes with a respective lightpath segment reservation, wherein each lightpath segment reservation references its corresponding lightpath segment using the segment ID field contained in the GMPLS-based label, wherein an input wavelength employed for carrying signals over the lightpath segment is identified as a function of a channel spacing value.

Applicants respectfully submit that Ozugur fails to disclose, teach, or suggest a identifying an input wavelength employed for carrying signals over the lightpath as a function of a channel spacing value.

Applicants note that independent claim 1 now includes subject matter of claim 7 deemed allowable by the Examiner. *Final Office Action* mailed 1/17/07, page 18, "Allowable Subject Matter" section. This matter was previously before the Examiner and should not require additional search.

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Art Unit: 2613

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Independent claims 14 and 25 have also been amended to include similar subject matter deemed allowable by the Examiner. Consequently, all independent claims now include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants request that the instant §103(a) rejections of claims 1, 14, and 25 be withdrawn.

The dependent claims are nonobvious over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with their respective independent claims, in addition to adding further limitations of their own. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the instant § 103 rejections of the dependent claims be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants believe the applicable rejections have been overcome and all claims remaining in the application are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned representative at (206) 292-8600 if the Examiner believes that an interview might be useful for any reason.

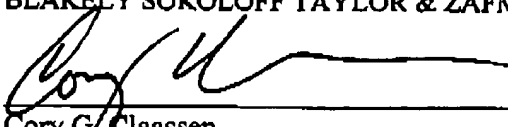
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CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

It is not believed that extensions of time are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, if additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a). Any fees required therefore are hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Please credit any overpayment to the same deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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